

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 CU-04 EA-11 NIC-01

RSR-01 /079 W

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R 240402 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9465

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1751

USIAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

FOR ISA; STATE FOR NEA/ PAB

1. ON APRIL 14 THE BENGALI DAILY SANGBAD CARRIED A BRIEF STORY ANNOUNCING THAT THE CHHATRA STUDENT UNION (NAP- MUZAFFAR ORIENTED) WOULD REBUILD A " MARTYRS" MONUMENT TO REPLACE THE ONE ORIGINALLY ERECTED IN FRONT OF USIS ON JANUARY 2 WHICH WAS PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY CHHATRA LEAGUE STUDENTS JANUARY 6 AND THE REMAINS TOTALLY DEMOLISHED BY BULL-DOZER ON THE ORDERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER (FEBRUARY 23). HOWEVER THE STORY STATED THIS TIME IT WOULD BE REBUILT ON THE GRASSED TRAFFIC CIRCLE IN FRONT OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THAT THE MOTHER OF ONE OF THE " MARTYRS" WOULD PARTICIPATE AT A DEDICATION CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P. M. FRIDAY, APRIL 20.

2. ERECTION OF A SIMPLE, TASTEFUL RECTANGULAR COLUMN OF RED BRICK BEGAN APRIL 19. THE COMPLETED MINAR MEASURES APPROXIMATELY 2-1/2 FEET BY 8 INCHES AND IS ABOUT FIVE FEET HIGH. IT BEARS A SMALL WHITE PLAQUE WITH INSCRIPTION " IN MEMORY OF MATIUL- KADER,
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MARTYRED BY POLICE FIRING ON VIET- NAM SOLIDARITY DAY
JANUARY 1, 1973."

3. BY 4:00 APRIL 20 A SMALL GROUP OF ABOUT 25 MALE AND
15 FEMALE STUDENTS HAD ASSEMBLED AT THE CIRCLE (WHICH IS
THREE HUNDRED YARDS WEST OF USIS AT THE INTERSECTION OF
TOPKHANA ROAD AND PARK AVENUE AND BARELY VISIBLE FROM
THE CENTER) HUDDLED UNDER THE TREES IN A HEAVY DRIZZLE.
THE WEATHER PRECLUDING ANY SPEECHES OR LENGTHY CEREMONY,
THE GROUP WAITED IN VAIN FOR EITHER MORE PARTICIPANTS OR
SUNNY SKIES. BY 5:00 THEY GAVE UP, HELD A BRIEF " MOMENT
OF SILENCE" AND DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. A LARGE
GREEN WREATH WAS DRAPED OVER THE MINAR.

4. INFORMATION FROM UNIVERSITY FRIENDS INDICATES THAT
THE GROUP HAD ASKED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE
PRIME MINISTER IN PERSON TO ERECT A NON- OFFENSIVE,
UNOBTRUSIVE, MONUMENT ON THE GREEN (RATHER THAN AN
OBSTRUCTIVE ONE IN THE STREET OPPOSITE USIS) PROVIDED
THEY GAVE ASSURANCES THAT NO DISTURBANCES,
DEMONSTRATIONS, LET ALONE ATTACKS ON USIS OR ANY
OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE AREA WOULD TAKE PLACE.
THE ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN AND OBSERVED.
GRESHAM

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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